

These minutes are draft until approved

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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes, May 6, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.
2. Organizational Issues:
 - The minutes of the April 1 meeting and April 15 work session were approved.
 - Financial Report: The balance in the Conservation Fund on the March 3 statement is \$13,709.35.
 - There were no reported communications or interactions with other town boards.
3. Water Issues:
 - Pine River clearance: Al reported on his research so far regarding the removal of downed trees from the channel of the Pine River to facilitate small-boat navigation. He said that the director of the NH Rivers Council advised him that they prefer to see deadfall left in the stream to provide cover for fish and other aquatic life. There does not appear, however, to be a direct prohibition of removal as long as the banks and riverbed are not altered. ECC members will walk the river bank on Monday, May 13 at 1 p.m. to inspect and assess the present blockage and possibilities for the minimum clearance needed to permit passage.
 - PLA Watershed Study: Carl Davis informed ECC that training for volunteers who will be canvassing neighborhoods to speak to residents will be held on Saturday, May 18. Emelyn and Virginia will be attending.
4. Open Space Issues:
 - LLP – Jack reported on the current status of the picnic table. ECC will hold a cleanup work session on Tuesday, June 3 at 9 a.m. to tidy up debris from winter and admire the router work on the table. A neighbor across the street from LLP has asked to put in some attractive landscaping around the roadside sign. This offer was accepted.
 - Green Mountain picnic table: Jack reported further on the process of acquiring a cedar picnic table to place at the base of the Fire Tower according to Kamal Nath's request. He has been advised that even a cedar table should have a sealant applied. The table will also have to be delivered to him for routing and then conveyed to the ranger station at White Lake for transportation to the summit of Green Mountain.
 - Al reported that he and Kamal found vandalism damage from ATV riders who had torn down signs prohibiting their entry onto the Libby Road Trail and ridden to the summit.
 - Puncheon walkway at Watts Sanctuary: on hold.
5. Education and Outreach:
 - Earth Day Poster Contest: ECC members selected winners for each grade's entries in the annual contest. Emelyn will inform the school and provide the prizes.
 - Roadside Cleanup: A total of 138 bags and 12 tires was collected on April 27. This is a new record for ECC and the town.
6. Other Business and Special Reports:
 - ECC considered and approved a Minimum Impact Expedited Application from Tin Mountain Conservation Center to place timber in Flanders Brook on property owned by Bill

and Eve Klotz. This will enhance trout habitat on a section of stream under-endowed with natural deadfall.

- ECC also reviewed a major Dredge and Fill application filed by NH-DOT for bridge improvements on Route 153.
- Kamal Nath will make a public presentation in June on the acoustic survey of local bat populations he's been helping to conduct.

The next work session will be held Monday, May 20 at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 3 at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Al Levesque (*alt.*); Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair*); Virginia Wrabel; Absent: Dave Goulet (*Secretary*); Harry Libby; Steph Barnes (*alt.*); Steve Zalewski (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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